



SVEČANA OTVORITEV
AKADEMSKEGA LETA 2026/2027

Dvorec Lanthieri, 26. oktober 2026

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Nagovor rektorja Univerze v Novi Gorici prof. dr. Boštjan Golob

Pred skoraj natanko letom dni, ob proslavi v čast 30-letnice naše univerze, smo poudarjali, da "Znanost je kultura". Še vedno sem v to trdno prepričan. Kot primer sem takrat navedel arheološko odkritje, t.i. Kost iz Ishanga, ki jo dandanes prepoznavamo kot morda najstarejši dokaz človekovih znanstvenih stremeljenj. Odkrili so jo l. 1950 v današnji Demokratični republiki Kongo, izdelana je bila pred okoli 20.000 leti. Interpretacije oznak na kosti segajo od zgolj simbolnega, umetniškega okrasja, preko preprostih matematičnih operacij do lunarnega koledarja. Je to znanost, je to kultura?

Brez dvoma znanje, kot produkt znanosti, bogati človeško zakladnico kulture v najširšem pomenu besede. In v tem smislu torej znanost je kultura, kultura človeštva.

Univerze ustvarjamo znanje. Ne, nisem se zmotil v glagolu, sodobne univerze znanje ne le predajamo, pač pa ga z znanstvenim delovanjem tudi ustvarjamo. Sodelavke in sodelavci v visokošolskem procesu sodelujemo s študentkami in študenti, ki participirajo v raziskovalnih aktivnostih, seveda intenzivneje na višjih stopnjah študija. V tej akademski skupnosti mladi nabirajo izkušnje in spretnosti, hkrati pa skupaj s seniornejšimi kolegi in kolegicami prispevajo vsak svoj, manjši ali večji del k ustvarjanju novih znanj. In s tem vsi skupaj, bogatimo kulturo človeštva.

Skupnost – akademska ali kakršnakoli druga – je tudi nekaj, kar odlikuje človeka od pradednine. Skupnost je okolje, v katerem je posameznik varnejši, v njej se zanese na pomoč in podporo ostalih članov. Pred deset tisoči let so se skupine lovcev in nabiralcev pričele povezovati v širše skupnosti. S tem se je povečala verjetnost preživetja, zmanjšalo se je tveganje za pomanjkanje hrane, omogočena je bila izmenjava znanja in orodij.

Skupnosti imajo dandanes druge cilje. A globoka vsebina ostaja: občutek varnosti, razumevanje somišljenikov, pomoč ob težavah in izzivih. Kako so se

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naši davni predniki sporazumeli o pripadnosti skupnosti ne vem. V sodobnem svetu so načini vključevanja v skupnost raznoliki. Npr. v zadnjih desetletjih pomembna beseda: mreženje. Z mreženjem vzpostavljamo neformalno skupnost, pravzaprav iz vzgibov zapisanih v naših genih: za pomoč ob težavah in lažje doseganje ciljev. Cilji so se spremenili, vsaj po večini niso več ulov mamuta za ozimnico. Globoko bistvo, človeška potreba po povezovanju, pa ostaja.

V razne skupnosti se lahko vključimo tudi drugače. V akademsko skupnost, na primer, z vpisom na univerzo. Ali s sprejemom delovnega mesta referenta v študentski pisarni, ali morda asistenta, docentke.... Posamezniki in posameznice v naši akademski skupnosti izmenjujejo znanje, izkušnje, spretnosti in orodja. Na naši univerzi akademsko skupnost negujemo in razvijamo. To ni lahko. Kajti vsak posameznik se mora, če naj skupnost preživi in se razvija, za to potruditi. Če skupnost šteje veliko število oseb, na vsako odpade manjši del naporov. Univerzitetna skupnost naše univerze je majhna, zaposleni, vsak posebej, vlagajo velike napore v njeno ohranitev in razvoj.

Univerzitetno skupnost razvijamo kadrovsko: od l. 2015 je število zaposlenih sodelavk in sodelavcev naraslo za natanko 50%. In skupnost šteje vse več študentin in študentov: od študijskega leta 2021/22 dalje število vpisanih slušateljev univerze narašča okoli 10% vsako leto. Razvijamo jo tudi infrastrukturno: s sodelovanjem z Mestno občino Nova Gorica pri načrtovanju umestitve univerzitetne pedagoške infrastrukture v območje neposredno ob meji in drugje, z vzpostavitvijo prvega študentskega doma slovenske univerze v tujini, z načrtovanjem univerzitetne raziskovalno-razvojne infrastrukture v Občini Ajdovščina, na območju bodočega Biotehnopolisa, ter z vzdrževanjem univerzitetne infrastrukture v Občini Vipava.

Vzpostavitev skupnosti je nekaj, kar je dobro poznano tudi današnjemu nagrajencu, Prof. Dr. Andreju Prevotu. Ne govorim o strokovnih, znanstvenih dosežkih. Govorim o ideji, kaj je potrebno za doseg določenega cilja, in o karakterni lastnosti sposobnosti realizacije ideje. O ideji povezovanja terenskih meritev na področju raziskav aerosolov in onesnaženja zraka s kontroliranimi laboratorijskimi raziskavami. O vzpostavitvi globalnega sodelovanja in svetovnega raziskovalnega programa, ki nam znanstveno precizno kaže, na kaj moramo usmeriti pozornost pri varovanju svojega okolja. Na univerzi smo ponosni, da k prizadevanjem prof. Prevota del znanja prispevajo tudi naši sodelavci in sodelavke.

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(The importance of building communities is also well understood by one of today's distinguished honourees, Professor Andrej Prevot. I am not referring here to his outstanding scientific achievements, which will be presented later. Rather, I wish to draw attention to something that lies behind such achievements: the vision to recognise what is needed to accomplish an ambitious goal, and the determination, perseverance and ability to transform that vision into reality. I am speaking of his vision of bringing together field measurements in aerosol and air pollution research with carefully controlled laboratory investigations. I am speaking of his efforts to establish a truly global network of scientific collaboration and an international research programme that provides rigorous scientific evidence to guide our efforts in protecting the environment. At the University of Nova Gorica, we take particular pride in the fact that our own researchers are able to contribute their expertise to Professor Prevot's remarkable endeavours.)

Zgled prepoznavanja in kontaktiranja sodelavcev pri doseganju ciljev na področju, ki ga ekspertno obvladuje, nam kaže primer današnje nagrajenke, prof. dr. Maje Ravnikar. Njeno delovanje sega preko meja njene od nekdaj domače institucije, Nacionalnega inštituta za biologijo, ki ga je vrsto let vodila kot njegova direktorica. Gradila in zgradila je mostove sodelovanja, kar je pogosto izjemno zahtevno, z Biotehniško fakulteto Univerze v Ljubljani, z Mednarodno podiplomsko šolo inštituta Jožef Stefan, vključila gospodarske družbe, ter – kar nas seveda posebej veseli – tudi z našo Univerzo v Novi Gorici. Njen prispevek k razvoju in znanstveni odličnosti naše univerze je neprecenljiv.

Eden arhitektov gradnje akademske skupnosti Univerze v Novi Gorici je naslednji današnji nagrajenec, prof. dr. Iztok Arčon. Kot pri ostalih nagrajencih se ne spuščam v podrobnosti strokovnih dosežkov, ki bodo predstavljeni v nadaljevanju. Prof. Arčon pa je med drugim pustil neizbrisen pečat pri vključitvi naše univerze v mednarodno raziskovalno skupnost. S povezovanjem vrhunskega raziskovalnega in odličnega pedagoškega dela, z vključevanjem študentk in študentov v raziskovalno delo, ter z interdisciplinarnim pristopom je utrjeval akademsko skupnost univerze tudi od znotraj.

Spoštovani in spoštovane, ob pričetku tega nagovora sem izrazil prepričanje, da je znanost tudi kultura. Dovolite, da se še za trenutek pomudim pri drugi komponenti dela na univerzi, to je predajanja znanja. Ko govorimo o sodob-

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nem svetu in družbi je verjetno najkrajši opis, ki ga lahko podamo: vse se hitro spreminja. Morda najhitrejše spremembe v družbi se dogajajo pri uvajanju novih, visokih tehnologij na različnih področjih človeškega udejstvovanja. Globalizacija svetovnih interakcij, navkljub spopadom, ki potekajo po svetu, večinoma omogoča dostop do visoke tehnologije, vsaj v našem delu sveta. Z drugimi besedami, tehnologijo je mogoče kupiti. In seveda, brez uporabe sodobne tehnologije družba hitro zaostane, izgubi svoje mesto v globalni skupnosti uspešnih držav.

Aparature pa ne pridejo v paketu z upravljalci. Iz lastnih izkušenj vam povem, da sem v karieri nemalokrat stal pred vrhunsko aparaturo, ki je nisem znal uporabiti. Brez znanja o tem, kako tehnologija deluje in predvsem brez znanja o tem, kaj vse omogoča, je neuporabna in neoptimalno izkoriščena. Navkljub pogostim kritikam visokošolskega sistema iz nekaterih vrst gospodarstva, da izobraženi profili ne ustrezajo njihovim potrebam, se moramo zavedati, da večina uspešnih slovenskih podjetij deluje predvsem s pomočjo kadra, izobraženega na slovenskih univerzah. V usposabljanju kadrov, ki razumejo sodobne metode, sodobne procese in delovanje visoke tehnologije, ki visoko tehnologijo naredijo operativno, med drugim leži pomembnost univerz oziroma visokošolskega sistema v Sloveniji na sploh. Z drugimi besedami, univerze imajo ključno vlogo pri prepričevanju, da bi naša družba izpadla iz skupnosti tistih držav, ki uspešno izkoriščajo sodobne tehnologije v dobro svojih družb.

O pomembnosti vloge Univerze v Novi Gorici v lokalnem in nacionalnem okolju, o njenem pomenu za družbo v zahodnem delu Slovenije, o njenem vplivu na Severno Primorsko regijo imamo morda različna mnenja. Večina sogovornikov resda izraža njeno pomembnost. Mnenja pa se izražajo tudi preko zagretosti in aktivnosti pri podpori določene ideje. Nenazadnje se podpora večjih inštitucionalnih akterjev izraža tudi v finančnem smislu. V mojih – subjektivnih – očeh, ni najbolj pomembno, kdo aktivnost univerze finančno podpira, pač pa je najpomembnejše, da ima univerzitetna skupnost možnost okolju nuditi vse, kar zmore. V nekaterih predvsem zunaj evropskih družbah gledajo na financiranje visokošolskih ustanov z drugimi očmi. Ne vedno enakimi, ponekod so daleč največji podporniki zasebni investitorji, spet drugje so visokošolske ustanove podprte izključno z državnimi sredstvi. A jasno je, da so eni in drugi podporniki ugotovili, da je za njih pomen univerz dovolj velik. Univerza v Novi Gorici zaenkrat za seboj nima še ne ene ne druge vrste izrazito

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močnih podpornikov. To je morda posledica specifik razvoja, morda pa tudi pričakovanja, da univerza pač je tu in bo kar sama nadaljevala, kar počne že 31 let. Iskreno upam, da bodo eni in drugi potencialni podporniki dovolj zgodaj vendarle ugotovili, kakšen je pomen četudi majhne univerze.

Ob koncu dovolite, da se še enkrat poklonim prejemnikom današnjih častnih nazivov, častnemu doktorju univerze, prejemnici zlate plakete univerze in zaslužnemu profesorju univerze. Ter čestitam prejemnicam in prejemnikom nazivov alumnus primus in alumnus optimus.

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Address by the Rector of the University of Nova Gorica, Prof. Dr. Boštjan Golob

Almost exactly one year ago, as we celebrated the 30th anniversary of our university, we emphasised a simple yet profound idea: "Science is Culture." I remain as firmly convinced of this statement today as I was then. On that occasion, I referred to a remarkable archaeological discovery: the so-called Ishango Bone, which is regarded as possibly one of the earliest surviving testimonies to humanity's scientific aspirations. Discovered in 1950 in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it was crafted approximately 20,000 years ago. Interpretations of the markings engraved upon it range from purely symbolic or artistic decoration to elementary mathematical operations, and even to a lunar calendar. There can be little doubt that knowledge, as a product of scientific endeavour, enriches the cultural heritage of humanity in the broadest possible sense. In this respect, science is indeed culture — an integral part of the shared culture of humankind.

Universities create knowledge. No, I have not chosen the wrong verb. Modern universities do not merely preserve and transmit knowledge; through scientific research, we also create it. Within our university, academic staff and students engage in a shared pursuit of knowledge. Students participate in research activities, naturally with increasing intensity as they advance through their studies. In this academic community, young people acquire experience, develop skills and broaden their understanding. At the same time, working alongside their more experienced colleagues, they make their own contributions — whether modest or substantial — to the creation of new knowledge. And through these collective endeavours, we all contribute to enriching the culture of humankind.

The concept of community — whether academic or of any other kind — has also been fundamental to human existence since prehistoric times. A community offers its members a greater sense of security, a network of mutual support, and the reassurance that they need not face adversity alone. Tens of thousands of years ago, groups of hunter-gatherers began establishing connections within wider communities. Such bonds increased their prospects of survival, reduced the risk of food shortages, and facilitated the exchange of knowledge, skills and tools. The purposes of communities have changed profoundly since those distant times. Yet their essential value remains

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remarkably constant: a sense of belonging and security, mutual understanding, and the assurance of support when confronted with difficulties and challenges.

How our distant ancestors established and recognised membership in their communities, I cannot say. In our modern world, however, the ways in which communities are formed are remarkably diverse. Consider, for example, a concept that has gained particular prominence in recent decades: networking. Through networking, we establish informal communities, motivated, in essence, by impulses deeply rooted in human nature: the desire for mutual assistance and the ability to achieve together what might be difficult to accomplish alone. Our objectives have certainly changed. For most of us, they no longer involve hunting a mammoth to secure provisions for the winter. Yet the underlying principle remains unchanged: the profoundly human need to connect, to cooperate, and to belong.

There are, of course, other ways of becoming part of a community. One may enter an academic community by enrolling at a university, by accepting an administrative position in the Student Office, or by embarking upon an academic career as a teaching assistant, as an assistant professor.... Within our academic community, individuals share knowledge, experience, skills and resources. At the University of Nova Gorica, we consciously strive to nurture, strengthen and develop this community. This is no simple undertaking. For any community to endure and flourish, each of its members must be willing to contribute. In a large community, the responsibilities can be shared among many. Our university community, however, is relatively small. Consequently, each and every member of our staff makes a particularly significant contribution to its preservation, its vitality and its continued development.

We develop our university community in view of person-power: since 2015, the number of employees at our university has increased by exactly 50 per cent. Our student community is expanding as well: since the academic year 2021/22, student enrolment has grown by approximately 10 per cent annually. We develop our community in terms of infrastructure: in cooperation with the Municipality of Nova Gorica, we are planning the development of university teaching facilities in the area immediately adjacent to the national border, as well as at other locations. We have established the first student residence of a Slovenian university abroad. We are planning new research and development infrastructure in the Municipality of Ajdovščina, within the area of the future Biotehnopolis. And we continue to maintain and develop our university infrastructure in the Municipality of Vipava.

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Another outstanding example of the ability to recognise the value of collaboration, to bring people together, and to pursue a shared scientific vision is provided by today's honouree, Professor Maja Ravnikar. Her contributions extend far beyond the boundaries of her long-standing academic home, the National Institute of Biology, which she led as Director for many years. She has devoted considerable effort to building bridges of cooperation — a task that is often far more demanding than it may appear. She has fostered collaboration with the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana, with the Jožef Stefan International Postgraduate School, and with partners from the business sector. And, to our particular satisfaction, she has also established and strengthened important ties with the University of Nova Gorica. Her contribution to the development of our university and to the advancement of its scientific excellence is truly invaluable.

One of the architects of the academic community of the University of Nova Gorica is our next distinguished honouree, Professor Iztok Arčon. As with our other award recipients, I shall leave the detailed presentation of his scientific achievements to the subsequent part of this ceremony. I would, however, like to emphasise that Professor Arčon has left an indelible mark on the integration of our university into the international research community. By combining research of the highest scientific standard with excellence in teaching, by actively involving students in research, and by fostering an interdisciplinary approach, he has strengthened not only our university's international standing, but also the very fabric of our academic community from within.

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Ladies and gentlemen, at the beginning of this address, I expressed my conviction that science is also culture. Allow me now to turn briefly to another fundamental mission of the university: the transmission of knowledge. If we were asked to describe the defining characteristic of the contemporary world in just a few words, perhaps the most appropriate answer would be: everything is changing, and changing rapidly. Among the most profound transformations taking place in our societies are those brought about by the introduction of advanced technologies into virtually every sphere of human activity. The globalisation of economic, scientific and technological exchange, notwithstanding the conflicts that continue to affect different parts of the world, has made advanced technologies broadly accessible, at least in our part of the world. Put simply, technology can be purchased. And there can be little doubt that a society which fails to adopt and make effective use of modern technologies risks falling behind and losing its place in the community of the world's most successful nations.

Yet sophisticated scientific equipment does not come with skilled operators included. Throughout my scientific career, I have on more than one occasion found myself standing before a remarkable piece of state-of-the-art equipment, fully aware of its sophistication, yet unable to operate it myself. Without the knowledge required to understand how a technology works — and, perhaps even more importantly, without an understanding of the possibilities it offers — even the most advanced equipment may remain unused, or employed far below its true potential. We occasionally hear criticism of the higher education system from certain sectors of the business community, suggesting that university graduates do not adequately meet their needs. Yet we should not overlook a fundamental fact: the success of the great majority of Slovenia's leading companies rests, to a considerable extent, upon the knowledge and expertise of professionals educated at Slovenian universities.

One of the most important contributions of universities, and indeed of the entire higher education system in Slovenia, lies precisely in educating people who understand contemporary methods, contemporary processes and inner working of high tech — people who possess the knowledge and skills required to transform technological possibilities into practical achievements. In other words, universities play an essential role in ensuring that our society retains its place in community of nations that are able to harness modern technologies successfully for the benefit of their people.

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We may hold differing views on the importance of the University of Nova Gorica within its local and national environment, on its significance for society in western Slovenia, and on its contribution to the development of the Northern Primorska region. It is true that most of those with whom I discuss these matters readily acknowledge the university's importance. Yet genuine recognition of an institution's value is reflected not only in words, but also in the willingness to support its mission, in the commitment to its development, and in the concrete actions taken on its behalf. Ultimately, the support of major institutional stakeholders is also expressed through financial commitment. From my own — inevitably subjective — perspective, the central question is not so much who provides the financial resources that sustain the university, but whether our academic community is given the opportunity to contribute to its surrounding society everything that it is capable of offering. In different parts of the world, particularly beyond Europe, higher education institutions are supported through a variety of funding models. In some societies, private benefactors and investors are their principal supporters. In others, universities rely almost entirely upon public funding. Despite these differences, one conclusion is evident: those who provide such support have recognised that universities are institutions of sufficient importance to merit substantial and sustained investment. The University of Nova Gorica, for the time being, cannot yet count upon exceptionally strong support from either of these sources. Perhaps this is a consequence of the particular circumstances of its historical development. Or perhaps it reflects an assumption that the university, having established itself, will simply continue to exist and to fulfil its mission, as it has done for the past 31 years. I sincerely hope that potential supporters, both public and private, will recognise — while there is still time — the profound significance that even a relatively small university can have for the society of which it is a part.

As I conclude, allow me once again to express my sincere respect and appreciation to the distinguished recipients of today's honorary titles: the Honorary Doctor of the University, the recipient of the University's Golden Plate, and the Professor Emeritus of the University. I also extend my warmest congratulations to the recipients of the Alumnus Primus and Alumnus Optimus awards.

Priznanja alumnus primus in alumnus optimus

Poslovno-tehniška fakulteta

Dodiplomski študijski program Gospodarski inženiring

alumnus primus

- **Dijana Jotanović**
- **Petar Đorđević**

alumnus optimus

- **Petar Đorđević**

Magistrski študijski program Gospodarski inženiring

alumnus primus

- **Marija Đorđević**
- **Iva Ranković**
- **Matevž Gros**

alumnus optimus

- **Filip Marinković**

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Magistrski študijski program Načrtovanje in vodenje odprtega izobraževanja

alumnus primus

- **Lasarus Nghifindwako Hakwaake**

alumnus optimus

- **Emmanuel Haizel Asare Yeboah**
- **Marina Panić**

Fakulteta za znanosti o okolju

Dodiplomski univerzitetni študijski
program Okolje

alumnus primus

- **Tilen Curk**

alumnus optimus

- **Katarina Dragić**

Podiplomski magistrski študijski
program Okolje

alumnus optimus

- **Danaja Valant**

Fakulteta za humanistiko

Univerzitetni študijski program Slovenistika

alumnus primus

- **Živa Stubelj**

alumnus optimus

- **Petra Brezinščak**

Univerzitetni študijski program Kulturna zgodovina

alumnus primus

- **Gordan Stefanov**

Magistrski študijski program Slovenistika

alumnus optimus

- **Tina Tinta**

Fakulteta za naravoslovje

Univerzitetni študijski program
Fizika in astrofizika

alumnus primus

- **Sanja Dumenčič**

alumnus optimus

- **Sanja Dumenčič**

Magistrski študijski program
Znanost o materialih

alumnus primus

- **Assane Ndao**

Fakulteta za vinogradništvo in vinarstvo

Visokošolski strokovni študijski program Vinogradništvo in vinarstvo

alumnus primus

- **Tinkara Ivanjšič**

alumnus optimus

- **Katerina Mukhina**

Magistrski študijski program Vinogradništvo in vinarstvo

alumnus primus

- **Magdalina Mihajlovska**

alumnus optimus

- **Magdalina Mihajlovska**

Akademija umetnosti

Visokošolski strokovni študijski program
Digitalne umetnosti in prakse

alumnus primus

- **Karin Vončina**

alumnus optimus

- **Vanja Miloš Jovanović**

Magistrski študijski program
Medijske umetnosti in prakse

alumnus optimus

- **Miha Godec**

Častna naziva in priznanje Univerze v Novi Gorici

naziv zaslužni profesor

prof. dr. Iztok Arčon

priznanje zlata plaketa

prof. dr. Maja Ravnikar

naziv častni doktor

prof. dr. André S. H. Prévôt

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Zaslužni profesor Univerze v Novi Gorici

– professor emeritus –

prof. dr. Iztok Arčon

Senat Univerze v Novi Gorici je na seji 15. julija 2026 sklenil, da naziv zaslužni profesor Univerze v Novi Gorici – professor emeritus – prejme prof. dr. Iztok Arčon kot izraz spoštovanja, priznanja in hvaležnosti za izjemen in trajen prispevek k razvoju Univerze v Novi Gorici ter slovenske in mednarodne znanosti.

Prof. dr. Iztok Arčon je ena ključnih osebnosti pri vzpostavitvi in razvoju raziskovalne usmeritve univerze na področju eksperimentalne fizike in uporabe sinhrotronske svetlobe. S svojim delom je pomembno prispeval k razvoju rentgenske absorpcijske spektroskopije (XAS) kot osrednje raziskovalne metode na univerzi ter k oblikovanju raziskovalne skupine, ki danes predstavlja mednarodno prepoznan center odličnosti na področju raziskav naprednih materialov.

Njegovi najpomembnejši znanstveni dosežki vključujejo pionirski razvoj in uporabo metod XANES in EXAFS za raziskovanje lokalne atomske in elektronske strukture materialov. Te metode so danes nepogrešljiv del raziskav v fiziki kondenzirane snovi, kemiji, znanosti o materialih, okoljski znanosti in biomedicini. Njegovo delo je pomembno prispevalo k razvoju razumevanja funkcionalnih materialov ter k širši uporabi sinhrotronske svetlobe v slovenskem raziskovalnem prostoru.

Posebej pomemben je tudi njegov prispevek k mednarodni raziskovalni vpetosti Univerze v Novi Gorici. Dolgoletno sodelovanje z vodilnimi evropskimi raziskovalnimi infrastrukturami, kot so Elettra, ESRF, DESY, ALBA in SOLEIL, je omogočilo vključevanje univerze v najvišje evropske raziskovalne tokove ter pomembno okrepilo njeno mednarodno prepoznavnost.

Prof. dr. Arčon je opravljal številne vodilne funkcije na Univerzi v Novi Gorici, pri čemer je svojo organizacijsko in akademsko vlogo vedno uspešno prepletal z raziskovalnim in pedagoškim delom. Kot dolgoletni dekan Fakultete za

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podiplomski študij je odločilno prispeval k razvoju raziskovalno usmerjenega doktorskega izobraževanja, krepitvi mednarodnih študijskih programov ter povezovanju študija z vrhunskimi raziskovalnimi projekti.

Pomemben je tudi njegov prispevek k razvoju sistema kakovosti Univerze v Novi Gorici. Kot predsednik Komisije za kakovost je sodeloval pri vzpostavitvi in razvoju notranjega sistema zagotavljanja kakovosti, pri pripravi samoevalvacijskih poročil ter pri uveljavljanju kulture stalnega izboljševanja na vseh področjih delovanja univerze.

Njegov prispevek k usposabljanju novih znanstvenikov je prav tako izjemen. V svoji akademski karieri je uspešno mentoriral številne doktorande in mlade raziskovalce, ki danes delujejo na univerzah, raziskovalnih inštitutih in v industriji. S tem je pomembno prispeval k razvoju nove generacije znanstvenikov ter k dolgoročni krepitvi raziskovalnega potenciala univerze in širšega akademskega prostora.

Prof. dr. Arčon je s svojim delom pomembno prispeval tudi k oblikovanju raziskovalne identitete Univerze v Novi Gorici. Njegovo delo temelji na povezovanju raziskovanja in izobraževanja, na vključevanju študentov v raziskovalne projekte ter na spodbujanju interdisciplinarnega pristopa k znanstvenim problemom. Ta pristop je postal ena od ključnih značilnosti Univerze v Novi Gorici. Skozi vse svoje delovanje je bil pomemben soustvarjalec akademskega okolja, ki danes omogoča raziskovalno in pedagoško odličnost univerze. S svojo strokovno doslednostjo, znanstveno radovednostjo in mednarodno prepoznavnostjo je pomembno prispeval k temu, da je Univerza v Novi Gorici danes uveljavljena raziskovalna univerza v slovenskem in evropskem prostoru.

At its session of 15 July 2026, the Senate of the University of Nova Gorica decided to award the title of Professor Emeritus of the University of Nova Gorica to Prof. Dr. Iztok Arčon in recognition of his exceptional and lasting contribution to the development of the University of Nova Gorica and to Slovenian and international science.

Prof. Dr. Iztok Arčon is one of the key figures in establishing and developing the University's research orientation in the field of experimental physics and the use of synchrotron radiation. Through his work, he has made a significant contribu-

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tion to the development of X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) as a core research method at the University and to the establishment of a research group that is now internationally recognised as a centre of excellence in the field of advanced materials research.

His most important scientific achievements include the pioneering development and application of the XANES and EXAFS methods for investigating the local atomic and electronic structure of materials. These methods are now an indispensable part of research in condensed matter physics, chemistry, materials science, environmental science, and biomedicine. His work has significantly contributed to advancing the understanding of functional materials and to the broader use of synchrotron radiation within the Slovenian research community.

Particularly significant is his contribution to the international research integration of the University of Nova Gorica. His long-standing collaboration with leading European research infrastructures, such as Elettra, ESRF, DESY, ALBA, and SOLEIL, has enabled the University to participate in the highest levels of European research and has significantly strengthened its international visibility.

Prof. Dr. Arčon has held numerous leadership positions at the University of Nova Gorica, successfully combining his organisational and academic responsibilities with his research and teaching activities. As the long-serving Dean of the Graduate School, he made a decisive contribution to the development of research-oriented doctoral education, the strengthening of international study programmes, and the integration of education with leading research projects.

His contribution to the development of the University's quality assurance system is also significant. As Chair of the Quality Assurance Committee, he participated in establishing and developing the University's internal quality assurance system, in preparing self-evaluation reports, and in fostering a culture of continuous improvement across all areas of the University's activities.

His contribution to the training of new generations of scientists has likewise been outstanding. Throughout his academic career, he has successfully supervised numerous doctoral students and early-career researchers who are now active at universities, research institutes, and in industry. In doing so, he has made an im-

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portant contribution to the development of a new generation of scientists and to the long-term strengthening of the University's research potential and the wider academic community.

Prof. Dr. Arčon has also made a significant contribution to shaping the research identity of the University of Nova Gorica. His work is founded on the integration of research and education, the involvement of students in research projects, and the promotion of an interdisciplinary approach to scientific challenges. This approach has become one of the defining characteristics of the University of Nova Gorica.

Throughout his career, he has been an important co-creator of the academic environment that today enables the University's excellence in research and education. Through his professional integrity, scientific curiosity, and international reputation, he has made a significant contribution to establishing the University of Nova Gorica as a recognised research university in Slovenia and the wider European research area.

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Zlata plaketa Univerze v Novi Gorici

prof. dr. Maja Ravnikar

Upravni odbor Univerze v Novi Gorici je na seji 14. julija 2026 sklenil, da priznanje zlata plaketa Univerze v Novi Gorici prejme prof. dr. Maja Ravnikar za dolgoletno pedagoško, raziskovalno in organizacijsko delo, s katerim je pomembno prispevala k razvoju in znanstveni odličnosti Univerze v Novi Gorici.

Prof. dr. Maja Ravnikar je danes ena izmed najbolj uspešnih in uglednih slovenskih znanstvenic. O prvem pričajo prejete nagrade: Študentska Prešernova nagrada leta 1984, Nagrada Sklada Borisa Kidriča leta 1989, Jesenkovo priznanje za pomembne raziskovalne dosežke leta 2000, Zoisova nagrada za vrhunske znanstvene dosežke leta 2022 in Nagrada Miroslava Zeia za življenjsko delo leta 2026. O drugem priča ocena strokovne komisije slovenske revije OnaPlus, ki je prof. dr. Majo Ravnikar leta 2023 uvrstila »med deset izjemnih Slovenk, ki so pomembno zaznamovale minulo leto«. Obseg in način javnega delovanja ter njena karizma ji omogočata, da sega njen vpliv v javnosti znatno preko ozke znanstvene sfere.

Vso svojo kariero je bila prof. dr. Maja Ravnikar zvesta Nacionalnemu inštitutu za biologijo (NIB), kjer je od leta 1984 raziskovala na področju sistemske biologije in patologije rastlin. Dolga leta je bila vodja Oddelka za biotehnologijo in sistemske biologije, od leta 2021 do 2025 pa tudi direktorica inštituta, aktivna še v raziskovalnem delu; vodila je številne nacionalne in mednarodne projekte, vključno z evropskim projektom Inextvir MSCA-ITN.

Delovanje prof. dr. Maje Ravnikar pa je vedno segalo daleč prek meja Nacionalnega inštituta za biologijo. Na Biotehniški fakulteti Univerze v Ljubljani tako predava že od leta 1988, leta 2000 je postala izredna, nekaj let kasneje pa redna profesorica. Kot ekspertinja za virologijo, biotehnologijo, molekularno diagnostiko, visoko zmogljivo sekvenciranje, karakterizacijo terapevtskih virusov in iniciatorica raziskav epidemiologije virusov v odpadnih vodah, vključno s SARS-CoV-2 je tudi profesorica na Mednarodni podiplomski šoli Jožef Stefan. Bila je mentorica in somentorica blizu dvema desetinama doktorskih študentov in avtorica preko 170 raziskovalnih člankov in patentov. In kar je za naše stanje duha presenetljivo: prof. dr. Maja Ravnikar je tudi

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soustanoviteljica visokotehnološkega podjetja BioSistemika. To kaže na njeno povezavo med akademskim in industrijskim okoljem ter njeno sposobnost za prenos znanja v prakso. S tem prispeva k širšemu razvoju biotehnologije in inovacij v Sloveniji.

Za Univerzo v Novi Gorici je posebej pomembno, da je prof. dr. Maja Ravnikar tudi redna profesorica biotehnologije na Univerzi v Novi Gorici. Na Fakulteti za vinogradništvo in vinarstvo sodeluje pri akademskih programih in prispeva k razvoju študijskih vsebin, ki združujejo teoretično znanje s praktičnimi izkušnjami. Njena vloga vključuje mentorstvo doktorantom in sodelovanje pri raziskovalnih iniciativah, ki so pomembne za razvoj biotehnoloških in viroloških kompetenc. V obdobju od leta 2009 do leta 2019 je bila prof. dr. Maja Ravnikar tudi članica Senata Univerze v Novi Gorici. V mandatnem obdobju od leta 2019 do leta 2023 in v trenutnem mandatnem obdobju je članica Upravnega odbora UNG. S svojo aktivno vlogo pri upravljanju univerze in z izkušnjami je prispevala in še vedno tvorno prispeva k njenemu uspešnemu poslovanju in celovitemu razvoju univerzitetnih aktivnosti ter aktivno pomaga pri širjenju sodelovanja univerze z drugimi institucijami znanja v Sloveniji.

At its session of 14 July 2026, the Governing Board of the University of Nova Gorica decided to award the Golden Plate of the University of Nova Gorica to Prof. Dr. Maja Ravnikar for her long-standing achievements in teaching, research, and organizational work, through which she has made a significant contribution to the development and scientific excellence of the University of Nova Gorica.

Prof. Dr. Maja Ravnikar is today one of the most successful and distinguished Slovenian scientists. Her achievements are reflected in the numerous awards she has received: the Student Prešeren Award in 1984, the Boris Kidrič Fund Award in 1989, the Jesenko Award for Outstanding Research Achievements in 2000, the Zois Award for Outstanding Scientific Achievements in 2022, and the Miroslav Zei Lifetime Achievement Award in 2026. Her reputation is further demonstrated by the evaluation of the expert committee of the Slovenian magazine OnaPlus, which in 2023 included Prof. Dr. Maja Ravnikar among the "ten exceptional Slovenian women who significantly marked the past year." The scope and manner of her public engagement, together with her charisma, have enabled her influence to extend well beyond the narrow sphere of science.

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Throughout her career, Prof. Dr. Maja Ravnikar remained dedicated to the National Institute of Biology (NIB), where she had conducted research in systems biology and plant pathology since 1984. For many years, she headed the Department of Biotechnology and Systems Biology, and from 2021 to 2025 she also served as the Director of the Institute while remaining actively engaged in research. She has led numerous national and international projects, including the European Inextvir MSCA-ITN project.

Prof. Dr. Maja Ravnikar's activities have always extended far beyond the National Institute of Biology. She has been teaching at the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana since 1988, became an Associate Professor in 2000, and was promoted to Full Professor a few years later. As an expert in virology, biotechnology, molecular diagnostics, high-throughput sequencing, the characterization of therapeutic viruses, and as the initiator of research into the epidemiology of viruses in wastewater, including SARS-CoV-2, she is also a professor at the Jožef Stefan International Postgraduate School. She has supervised or co-supervised nearly twenty doctoral students and is the author of more than 170 scientific publications and patents. Remarkably, Prof. Dr. Maja Ravnikar is also a co-founder of the high-technology company BioSistemika. This reflects her ability to bridge the academic and industrial sectors and to transfer scientific knowledge into practice, thereby contributing to the broader development of biotechnology and innovation in Slovenia.

For the University of Nova Gorica, it is particularly significant that Prof. Dr. Maja Ravnikar is also a Full Professor of Biotechnology at the University of Nova Gorica. At the School of Viticulture and Enology, she contributes to academic programmes and to the development of curricula that combine theoretical knowledge with practical experience. Her role includes mentoring doctoral students and participating in research initiatives that are important for the development of biotechnology and virology expertise. From 2009 to 2019, Prof. Dr. Maja Ravnikar also served as a member of the Senate of the University of Nova Gorica. During the 2019–2023 term of office and in the current term, she has been a member of the Governing Board of the University of Nova Gorica (UNG). Through her active role in the governance of the University and her extensive experience, she has contributed, and continues to contribute, to its successful operation and the comprehensive development of its academic activities. She also actively promotes cooperation between the University and other knowledge institutions in Slovenia.

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Častni doktor Univerze v Novi Gorici – *doctor honoris causa* – prof. dr. André S. H. Prévôt

Senat Univerze v Novi Gorici je na seji 16. septembra 2026 sklenil, da naziv častni doktor – *doctor honoris causa* – prejme prof. dr. André S. H. Prévôt za izjemen znanstveni prispevek na področju raziskav aerosolov in onesnaženosti zraka, dolgoletno sodelovanje s slovenskimi raziskovalci ter pomemben prispevek k mednarodni uveljavitvi slovenskega raziskovanja in Centra za raziskave atmosfere Univerze v Novi Gorici.

Prof. dr. André S. H. Prévôt je mednarodno priznan atmosferski kemik in fizik, ki raziskuje lastnosti organskih aerosolov, njihovo spreminjanje v atmosferi in razvija metode za določanje virov onesnaženega zraka. Je profesor in vodja skupine za kemijo plinske faze in aerosolov v Laboratoriju za atmosfersko kemijo (LAC) Inštituta Paul Scherrer (PSI), ter pridružen profesor na ETH Zürich. Fiziko je študiral na ETH Zürich (1984–1990), kjer je leta 1994 doktoriral iz naravoslovnih znanosti. Po podoktorskem raziskovanju na ETH Zürich in na National Center for Atmospheric Research v Boulderju (ZDA) se je leta 1997 zaposlil na PSI.

Na PSI je zgradil enega vodilnih svetovnih raziskovalnih programov na področju atmosferskih aerosolov. Raziskave, ki jih je načrtoval in izvedel, združujejo terenske meritve s kontroliranimi laboratorijskimi eksperimenti – pristop, za katerega prof. dr. Prévôt in njegovi sodelavci menijo, da je ključen za mednarodno povezovanje in uspeh laboratorija. Njegov znanstveni opus je izjemno obsežen: avtor ali soavtor je več sto recenziranih znanstvenih člankov, njegov h-indeks znaša 108 (Scopus), njegovo delo pa je bilo citirano več kot 50.000-krat. Družba Clarivate ga je osem let zapored uvrstilo med »visoko citirane raziskovalce« na področju znanosti o Zemlji. Leta 2006 pa je skupaj s prof. dr. Ursom Baltenspergerjem prejel nagrado PSI za znanstveno komuniciranje za predstavitev virov delcev PM v Švici.

Prof. dr. Prévôtovo raziskovalno delo se osredotoča na nastanek in kemijo atmosferskih delcev (PM), s posebnim poudarkom na določanju virov z delci onesnaženega zraka – razčlenjevanju, koliko onesnaženja zraka izvira iz prometa, ku-

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hanja, sežiganja biomase in industrijskih virov. Sodeloval je pri razvoju in uporabi razširjeno uporabljanih analitičnih orodij na tem področju, vključno z metodo pozitivne matrične faktorizacije, implementirano v programskem paketu SoFi. Vodil je evropske projekte, v katerih smo razvili metode za kemijsko speciacijo delcev PM_{2.5} v realnem času. Vodil je ali sodeloval pri vrsti švicarskih in evropskih projektov (npr. POLLUMET, EUROTRAC II, ARTEMIS, EUROCHAMP, ACCENT, AEROWOOD), njegovo delo pa je obravnavalo pereče probleme kakovosti zraka v nekaterih najbolj onesnaženih mestnih okoljih na svetu, od virov organskih aerosolov v kitajskih velenostih do karakterizacije hlapnih organskih spojin in določanja virov onesnaženja zraka v Delhiju (Indija), kjer smo na tudi raziskovalci iz Univerze v Novi Gorici sodelovali s pomembnimi prispevki, in Sarajevu (BiH), kjer je projekt vodila Univerza v Novi Gorici.

Njegove raziskave so izrazito mednarodno usmerjene, temeljijo pa na dolgoletnih partnerstvih po Aziji in Evropi. Na Kitajskem je sodeloval pri študijah ogljikovih aerosolov in onesnaženja v mestih, kot so Xi'an, Shijiazhuang, Wuhan, Chongqing in Peking. V Indiji je bil ključni znanstveni partner v okviru švicarsko-indijske medvladne pobude Clean Air India Initiative, kjer je sodeloval z institucijami, kot so The Energy and Research Institute, IIT-Kanpur in IIT-Delhi, poleg evropskih partnerjev, kot so Univerza v Bernu, Univerza v Grenoblu, CNR v Italiji in CSIC v Španiji. Ta globalna mreža sodelovanj je prof. dr. Prévôta postavila v vlogo osrednje osebe, ki povezuje raziskave atmosferske kemije v Evropi, Aziji in širši evropski znanstveni skupnosti.

Prof. dr. Prévôt je globalno vodilni znanstvenik na področju aerosolov. Že dalj časa tesno sodeluje z raziskovalci Centra za raziskave atmosfere (CRA) Univerze v Novi Gorici. Sodelovanje z nami sega vsaj v obdobja pred letom 2015, ko smo objavili prelomni članek o novem aethalometru, najbolj globalno uporabljanem inštrumentu za merjenje črnega ogljika, ki so ga razvili v podjetju Aerosol d.o.o. Članek je citiran več kot 900-krat in je tretji najbolj citiran članek v reviji Atmospheric Measurement Techniques. Sodelovanje s CRA se je nadaljevalo v številnih skupnih raziskavah absorpcijskih lastnosti aerosolov, vključno z metodami za korekcijo sipanja pri filterjskih fotometrih ter uporabo aethalometričnega modela za določanje prispevka izgorevanja premoga k črnemu ogljiku. Sodelovali smo pri obsežnih evropskih projektih harmonizirane analize organskih aerosolov in njihovih optičnih lastnosti (serija študij »European aerosol phenomenology«). Sodelovanje povezuje PSI-jevo delo na po-

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dročju kemijske speciacije aerosolov z raziskavami skupine Univerze v Novi Gorici na področju optičnih lastnosti aerosolov, kar je pripomoglo k razvoju in validaciji ključnih merilnih tehnik, ki se danes uporabljajo v mednarodnih mrežah za monitoring. Skupaj smo sodelovali pri vodenju akcije COST CA16109 COLOSSAL (Chemical On-Line cOmpoSition and Source Apportionment of fine aerosol), ki je razvila in uvedla standardne postopke za meritve in zagotavljanje kakovosti meritev na področju ogljičnih aerosolov in določanja virov z delci onesnaženja zraka.

Prof. dr. Prévôt je na PSI mentoriral in usmerjal številne doktorske študente in podoktorske raziskovalce, ki so kasneje postali uveljavljeni znanstveniki na področju atmosfere kemije. Sodelovanje med CRA in bivšimi doktorskimi študenti in podoktorskimi sodelavci prof. dr. Prévôta se nadaljuje tudi, ko ti študenti zapustijo PSI. Velja tudi obratno, naši doktorski študenti in podoktorski sodelavci sodelujejo s prof. dr. Prévôtom tudi, ko niso več zaposleni na UNG. Tako skupaj soustvarjamo globalno mrežo mlajših raziskovalcev na področju fizike in kemije aerosolov in določanja virov onesnaženja zraka.

At its session on 16 September 2026, the Senate of the University of Nova Gorica decided to award the title of Honorary Doctor – Doctor Honoris Causa – of the University of Nova Gorica to Prof. Dr. André S. H. Prévôt for his outstanding scientific contribution in the field of aerosols research and air pollution, his longstanding collaboration with Slovenian researchers, and his significant contribution to the international recognition of Slovenian research and the Center for Atmospheric Research of University of Nova Gorica.

Prof. Dr. André S. H. Prévôt is an internationally recognised atmospheric chemist and physicist whose research focuses on the properties of organic aerosols, their transformation in the atmosphere, and the development of methods for identifying sources of air pollution. He is a professor and head of the Gas Phase and Aerosol Chemistry group at the Laboratory of Atmospheric Chemistry (LAC) at the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), and also an adjunct professor at ETH Zürich. He studied physics at ETH Zürich (1984–1990), where he received his doctorate in natural sciences in 1994. Following postdoctoral research at ETH Zürich and at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, USA, he joined PSI in 1997.

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At PSI, he established one of the world's leading research programmes in the field of atmospheric aerosols. The research he has designed and conducted combines field measurements with controlled laboratory experiments – an approach that Prof. Dr. Prévôt and his colleagues consider crucial for international networking and the success of the laboratory. His scientific output is exceptionally extensive: he is the author or co-author of several hundred peer-reviewed scientific articles, has an h-index of 108 (Scopus), and his work has been cited more than 50,000 times. Clarivate has ranked him among the Highly Cited Researchers in the field of Earth and environmental sciences for eight consecutive years. In 2006, together with Prof. Dr. Urs Baltensperger, he received the PSI Award for Science Communication for communicating research on the sources of particulate matter (PM) in Switzerland.

Prof. Dr. Prévôt's research focuses on the formation and chemistry of atmospheric particulate matter (PM), with particular emphasis on identifying the sources of air pollution by particulate matter – determining how much air pollution originates from traffic, cooking, biomass burning, and industrial sources. He has contributed to the development and application of widely used analytical tools in this field, including positive matrix factorisation, implemented in the SoFi software package. He has led European projects in which methods for the real-time chemical speciation of PM_{2.5} were developed. He has led or participated in a number of Swiss and European projects (e.g. POLLUMET, EUROTRAC II, ARTEMIS, EUROCHAMP, ACCENT, AEROWOOD). His work has addressed pressing air-quality problems in some of the most polluted urban environments in the world, ranging from sources of organic aerosols in Chinese megacities to the characterisation of volatile organic compounds and the identification of sources of air pollution in Delhi, India, where researchers from the University of Nova Gorica also made significant contributions, and in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the project was led by the University of Nova Gorica.

His research is strongly international in scope and is based on longstanding partnerships across Asia and Europe. In China, he has participated in studies of carbonaceous aerosols and air pollution in cities such as Xi'an, Shijiazhuang, Wuhan, Chongqing, and Beijing. In India, he was a key scientific partner in the Swiss-Indian intergovernmental Clean Air India Initiative, where he collaborated with institutions including The Energy and Resources Institute, IIT-Kanpur,

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and IIT-Delhi, as well as with European partners such as the University of Bern, the University of Grenoble, CNR in Italy, and CSIC in Spain. This global network of collaborations has placed Prof. Dr. Prévôt in a central position connecting atmospheric chemistry research in Europe, Asia, and the wider European scientific community.

Prof. Dr. Prévôt is a globally leading scientist in the field of aerosols. He has maintained close collaboration with researchers at the Centre for Atmospheric Research (CRA) at the University of Nova Gorica for many years. Our collaboration dates back at least to the period before 2015, when we published a seminal paper on a new aethalometer, the most widely used instrument globally for measuring black carbon, which was developed at Aerosol d.o.o. The paper has been cited more than 900 times and is the third most cited paper in the journal *Atmospheric Measurement Techniques*. Collaboration with CRA continued through numerous joint studies of the optical absorption properties of aerosols, including methods for correcting for scattering in filter photometers and the use of the aethalometer model to determine the contribution of coal combustion to black carbon.

We also collaborated on major European projects involving harmonised analysis of organic aerosols and their optical properties (the series of studies entitled “European aerosol phenomenology”). This collaboration connects PSI’s work on the chemical speciation of aerosols with the research conducted by the University of Nova Gorica group on the optical properties of aerosols, contributing to the development and validation of key measurement techniques that are now used in international monitoring networks. Together, we also participated in leading the COST Action CA16109 COLOSSAL (Chemical On-Line cOmpoSition and Source Apportionment of fine aerosOL), which developed and introduced standard procedures for measurements and quality assurance in the field of carbonaceous aerosols and the identification of sources of particulate air pollution.

At PSI, Prof. Dr. Prévôt has supervised and mentored numerous doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers who subsequently became established scientists in the field of atmospheric chemistry. Collaboration between CRA and Prof. Dr. Prévôt’s former doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers

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continues even after they leave PSI. The same applies in the other direction: our doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers continue to collaborate with Prof. Dr. Prévôt even after they are no longer employed at the University of Nova Gorica. In this way, we jointly contribute to a global network of early-career researchers in the physics and chemistry of aerosols and in the identification of sources of air pollution.

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